

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*):

(a) Yes.

(b) (i) No.

(ii) No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Without practical training in cooking what is the necessity of training in cookery?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): There are two heads of training under cookery—one as an optional subject and the second general training in cooking. With regard to the second some kind of training is possible and is being given. There is a matron attached to the school.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Cannot the tiffin shed be partitioned?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): I enquired about it but the headmistress thinks that as things are at present, the tiffin shed itself is too small and some of the girl students go and squat on the verandah during the interval to take their tiffin.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Cannot a semi-permanent shed be erected?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): I tried to explain before. This school requires some improvements. I assure the hon'ble member that the matter will be taken into consideration as soon as funds permit.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): In consideration of the realisation of these deficiencies in the school, will the Government be pleased to adopt some three year plan for improving the school?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know how far it will be possible, because our funds are limited. I may assure on behalf of the Government that this will receive their earnest and very early attention.

TEXT BOOKS—PRINTING AND PUBLISHING BY GOVERNMENT—PROGRESS MADE.

167. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim** (*Cranganur*): Will the Government be pleased to state the progress they have effected in themselves printing and publishing text-books ever since motion No. 62 was discussed in the House on 29th Karkadagam 1112?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Nil.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): May I know the reasons why no further progress has been effected in the matter?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I invite the hon'ble member's attention to the statement made by the President which would be found in Vol. V, Part 4 of the Proceedings of the Budget Session of 1938. The Statement made by him is too long for me to repeat. It is at page 974. It has been fully explained there that Government are anxious as far as possible to call in tenders and undertake the publication. I think I am perfectly right in saying that as matters stand, it will be impossible for the Government Press to undertake this kind of work. So, what Government did was to secure a royalty for these books, fix the price and give them to the tenderer, who has quoted the most favourable terms. The hon'ble member for Ezhuvas, Mr. Ayyappan was a member of the sub-committee which looked into this. The Hon'ble President has made a very long statement which fully explains the reason why the Government did not think it necessary to take immediate action. The Hon'ble President also said that as soon as there is a chance for calling in tenders at the time of the next renewal of contract, the matter will engage the serious attention of the Government.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): May I know Sir, when will the term of the present contract expire?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I want notice. Anyway it won't end this year or the next year.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): What is the duration of the contract?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I think it is for five years.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): For all books?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): Not for all. It is impossible for the Government to undertake the publication of all books. There is no scarcity of good books for chemistry, physics, etc. It is only with regard to books for primary classes that the contract is given.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): Does the hon'ble member mean that the contract period for books that are in use in the primary department is four or five years?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I want notice. But I can assure the hon'ble member that the term has not ended.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur) : It is exactly on the point raised by the hon'ble member for Education that I want information. He was referring to the statement of the Hon'ble President that the Government have accepted the resolution of the House asking them to undertake the printing and publishing of these books. After that, two years have passed. My question is what progress they have made in the line? Is it the position of the hon'ble member for Education that nothing more has to be done?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I have never said anything of the sort. When the President made his statement he was very cautious. He said "What we propose to do hereafter is this: We propose to call for open tenders from amongst the approved printers and we will certainly give it to the lowest tenderer. In this particular year, since we have no time to call for tenders, we must do the best of the bad business, etc." When I said "No progress has been made since," I meant that since the contract has already been given and is in force now, we can't make any further progress. There is no use of Government undertaking parallel publications.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): It was only for a few classes that the contract has been given. Many more classes remain. Our demand is that the Government themselves should undertake the printing.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (Director of Public Instruction): I have already explained that with regard to other books, the Government do not see any point in undertaking their publication. It is only with regard to certain books of certain grades that either the parent or the public are going to gain by the Government undertaking their publication.

Mr. President: I do not think that any assurance was given that the Government themselves will undertake the printing of these books at the Government Press.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): I will read the assurance, Sir. "So far as that is concerned, the Government position is that they have accepted the resolution of this House that Government themselves should undertake the printing and publication of the text books".

Mr. President : That does not mean that they should print the books in the Government Press. I want to make one position clear. There has been a lot of agitation in the House and outside with regard to this matter. Government have no

doubt undertaken to print and publish text books and not to allow the old system to continue. But that does not necessarily mean that the actual printing of all text books will be done in the Government Press. Government will take the responsibility for the printing and publishing. That means, Government will become the publisher. They may either get them printed at the Government Press or the cheapest press available at Ernakulam or Trichur. That is what we propose to do. In fact it is not our intention that all the books should be printed actually in the Government Press. I am absolutely certain that it cannot be done economically in our Government Press. Apart from that, since this year we have introduced a new system of accounting in the Government Press. Previously, the system of accounting in the Government Press was this. Expenditure was incurred on every item on which expenditure has to be incurred and at the end of the year we were told that a lakh of rupees has been spent and so many publications have been brought out. No attempt was made however to find out whether all this printing has been done on a really commercial scale. We have now introduced a commercial system of accounting in the Government Press. That is, for all the works that the Government Press has undertaken they must charge a commercial rate, and if for instance, in the actual printing of these text books we find that the Government Press is not able to quote as cheap a rate as private presses, why should we give it to the Government Press? Public money will be lost. There was no intention at all to undertake printing at the Government Press.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): We are not particular as to where the printing is done. We are only particular in getting the books sold at as cheap a rate as possible.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): I will just add one word more. The hon'ble member for Cranganur quoted only a portion of the President's speech. The previous paragraph reads like this: "Naturally what we will do next time will be, we will make an approved list of printers. We will call for tenders from them and we will try to see if further improvements can be done".

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): My question was, after having given this assurance, what are they going to do for the remaining classes?

Mr. President: Now that the position has been made clear, is it the hon'ble member's intention that the Government must undertake the actual printing in the Government Press?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (*Cranganur*): My point is this. Government have now inaugurated a new system of printing books for a small number of classes. After that two years have passed. Why is it that the same principle cannot be followed for other classes also?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): There are certain classes for which books are available and which we cannot print really ourselves. For one thing these things carry a copyright. We cannot reproduce them. For example, take the case of Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare. Extracts from the book are prescribed. Even if we want to print and publish them we can't do that. It is only with regard to the primary classes that this scheme could be applied with advantage. In such cases it is enforced now.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): For all the books in the primary classes?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): All the malayalam books, copy books, etc.

Mr. President: You will keep in mind that assurance given.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, at the time of the renewal of the contract.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): What is the harm in adopting the principle for the secondary classes also?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Most of the books are selections from standard authors and certain printers and publishers possess their copyright. If we want to reproduce them it will be extremely difficult. Otherwise we should ask the local people to write books on English literature.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): To take select passages from well-known authors, I do not think the question of infringement of copyright will arise?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): Unless they are very old authors, it will arise.

Mr. President: That is a matter which the Text-Book Committee should decide.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): The Text Book Committee have even gone out of their way and prescribed prices for some of the books. In certain cases, such as the Oxford University Press, who have got copyright for

some standard publications, there were protests. I should say that the Text Book Committee have done their best in fixing the prices. No question was ever raised in this House as far as I am aware, with regard to the printing and publishing of books relating to secondary classes by Government previously.

MEDICAL INSPECTION IN SCHOOLS.

168. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Nellayi*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement regarding the medical inspection of schools in the State in each of the schools;

- (a) the number of students inspected;
- (b) the nature of disease, etc., during the last year?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*):
(a & b) A statement containing the particulars is placed on the table.

FINES FOR DEFAULT OF FEES—COLLECTION OF.

169. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) whether fines are collected for the default of school or college fees in both Government and Aided Educational Institutions in the State;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, the rates of fines collected—

- (i) College Department,
- (ii) High School Department,
- (iii) Lower Secondary Department,
- (iv) Primary classes,
- (v) Industrial Schools,
- (vi) Trade Schools,
- (vii) Training Institute,
- (viii) Music Institute;

(c) whether the names of pupils are removed for non-payment of fees;

(d) if the answer is in the affirmative after how many days default;

(e) whether the Government have noted that certain pupils and students discontinue due to inability to pay fines;

(f) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to supply the caste-war statement of such discontinuing students or pupils?